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16 April 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

O/DDI

SUBJECT : COINS

1. This memorandum responds to your request for advice on who should have the action on the Hall to Colby letter of 8 April on COINS.

2. The problem raised by Hall is an interdirectorates one involving the [REDACTED] (CRS et al), DDS&T (NPIC, OWI, and OSI), and [REDACTED] files, principally [REDACTED]

3. From my point of view, [REDACTED] (as a CIA COINS manager) should have the job of pulling together the response. It will be a time-consuming and frustrating task because, lacking clear and consistent policy (i.e., policy that is not internally incompatible with itself), nobody knows what to do. In addition, lacking clear DCI interest in COINS, nobody cooperates very much with the COINS manager and nobody finds it useful to stick out his neck in this area.

4. There are lots of problems, but two major ones which subsume most of the others.

a. What can go into COINS files from the CIA management point of view?

The Finished Intelligence Index; e.g., now furnished to COINS by CRS and run on [REDACTED] computer, generally has about half as much content as the actual CRS files. Everybody's rules prohibit expansion of this 50%; e.g., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in the COINS files. The DDO excludes [REDACTED] Mr. Colby doesn't have the newspaper in, etc., etc., etc. The solution of this is a separable portion of the problem that is raised by Hall and should be resolved before CIA commits a host computer to COINS.

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b. Why should CIA tie up a computer to run files for COINS that are of no benefit to CIA, and what would this commitment do to OJCS abilities to support Agency operations?

If a. above is not resolved, no CIA person would possibly use the COINS FinIntel files, for example. No one in any organization can have much confidence in this file regardless of where it is run. Also, in the past Security prohibited running of CIA files in a COINS-supported computer in a multiprocessing mode. Thus, the computer supporting COINS had to be completely cut out of the OJCS facility net in order to do something that didn't do this building any good. In a sense the technical part of this question is soluable with nothing more than space, money and manpower. But the point of such a solution is not obvious.



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H. C. EISENBEISS
Director, Central Reference Service

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